

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel additional claims 10, 17 and 21.

Please amend the remaining claims as indicated:

1. (Currently amended) A system for sending and receiving SMS messages between SMS message devices located in different wireless networks without traversing Short Message Service Centers situated in said different wireless networks, said system comprising:

at least a first hardware device located in a first wireless communication network;

said first hardware device being connected to the Internet;

said first hardware device having a machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program comprising a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for receiving and forwarding SMS messages from the Internet to said first wireless communication network and from said first wireless communication network to the Internet;

at least a second hardware device located in a second wireless communication network;

said second hardware device being connected to the Internet;

said second hardware device having a machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program comprising a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for

receiving and forwarding SMS messages from the Internet to said second wireless communication network and from said second wireless communication network to the Internet;

at least one server that is connected to the Internet;

said server having a machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program comprising a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for maintaining a plurality of interrelated tables comprising a database, said database containing user-provided personalized information cross-referencing SMS user devices and predetermined routing and identification information for routing SMS messages to selected, identified SMS message recipients,

said first hardware device receiving an SMS message from a user's SMS device in said first wireless communication network and forwarding said SMS message to said server on the Internet,

said server receiving said SMS message from said first hardware device, analyzing said SMS message and accessing said database to verify that said SMS message originated from an authorized user and to determine the intended recipient of said SMS message,

said server obtaining routing information from said database for directing said SMS message to said intended recipient, said routing information including identifying said

second wireless communication network and determining the IP address of said second hardware device to which said SMS message will be forwarded, forwarding said SMS message to said second hardware device, and maintaining account information for debiting said user;

said second hardware device receiving said SMS message from said server and forwarding said SMS message to said intended recipient in said second wireless communication network, said second hardware device sending a confirmation message to said server after said intended recipient has received said SMS message; and,

said server then debiting said user's account.

2. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said at least a first hardware device in said first wireless communication network comprises one of a plurality of hardware devices; said at least a second hardware device in said second wireless communication network comprises one of a plurality of hardware devices in said second communication network; and said second wireless communication network comprises one of a plurality of wireless communications networks.
3. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said first and said second hardware devices each comprise a cellular telephone connected to a computer.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3, wherein said hardware device is further programmed to assist said ~~the~~ server ~~device~~ in determining which other hardware device to forward the SMS messages to, when such messages are received and forwarded by the system via wireless communication.
5. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1 wherein said ~~the~~ server is a computer.
6. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of user SMS message devices, said SMS message user devices being computers that are programmed to communicate with said server across the internet and said server is further programmed to communicate with said SMS message user devices across the Internet.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Currently amended) The system of claim 6, wherein ~~the~~ said server ~~device~~ is further programmed to forward SMS messages for authorized users of the system to the user's email account.
9. (Currently amended) The system of claim 6, wherein said ~~the~~ server ~~device~~ is further programmed to store SMS messages and allow authorized users of the system to send and retrieve SMS messages via an HTML based interface on the Internet.
10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of user computers, said user computers having the capability for sending SMS messages and being in communication with said server across the Internet,

said computer program on said server further comprising one or more executable code sections that allow said server to receive an SMS message from one of said user computers, determine routing information from said database to direct said SMS message to the intended recipient of said SMS message, and forward said SMS message to a hardware device in the wireless communication network where said intended recipient is located for further forwarding to said intended recipient.
15. (Previously presented) The system of claim 14, further comprising e-mail accounts whereby SMS messages can be sent or received as e-mail, and one or more of said executable code sections in said computer program on said server causes said server to receive SMS messages sent from an e-mail account or to forward SMS messages to an email account, as directed by instructions comprising said personalized information maintained in said database.

16. (Previously presented) The system of claim 14, wherein one or more of said executable code sections in said computer program on said server causes said server to store SMS messages whereby authorized users can send and retrieve SMS messages using an HTML based interface on the Internet.
17. (Cancelled).
18. (Previously presented) The system of claim 14 further comprising a plurality of servers connected to the Internet, each said server having a machine readable storage and having stored thereon a computer program comprising a plurality of code sections executable by a machine to cause said servers to exchange information concerning SMS messages and user accounts across the Internet.
19. (Previously presented) A system for sending and receiving SMS messages, comprising:

a plurality of SMS message user devices that can send and receive SMS messages,

a plurality of hardware devices;

each said hardware device comprising a cellular telephone connected to a computer, each said hardware device being connected to the Internet;

said plurality of hardware devices being located in a plurality of wireless communication networks such that each of said plurality of wireless communications networks contains a plurality of hardware devices;

each of said plurality of hardware devices being programmed to receive and forward SMS messages using the Internet and using one of said plurality of wireless communication networks;

a plurality of servers connected to the Internet, said servers comprising computers:

each said server having a machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program comprising a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for receiving SMS messages from said hardware devices via the Internet and verifying that SMS messages are authorized, each said server maintaining one or more tables comprising a database containing at least a list of users of said system and routing information for routing SMS messages to predetermined recipients, said routing information being based upon user-supplied information provided by an authorized user, said user-supplied information comprising at least a user generated recipient identification code,

said plurality of executable code sections causing each said server to access said database and forward SMS messages received by each said server to the appropriate hardware devices via the Internet and maintain account information for debiting users of the system;

said plurality of executable code sections causing said servers to communicate with said SMS message user devices via the Internet;

said plurality of executable code sections causing said servers to allow authorized users of the system to send SMS messages from one of said SMS message user devices to one of said servers, and to determine whether one or more of said SMS messages is to be forwarded to a hardware device via the internet;

said plurality of executable code sections causing said servers to forward SMS messages for one of said users of the system to said user's email account;

said plurality of executable code sections causing said servers to store SMS messages and allow users of the system to send and retrieve SMS messages via an HTML based interface on the Internet;

said plurality of SMS message user devices comprising computers that communicate with said servers via the Internet;

said plurality of executable code sections causing said servers to monitor the delivery of SMS messages such that, when an intended recipient receives an SMS message via a wireless communication network, by email, or by retrieving it from a server via an HTML based interface, the server will debit a user's account.

20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein at least one of said plurality of hardware devices is programmed to assist a server in determining to which hardware device in said plurality of hardware devices an SMS message should be forwarded when said SMS message is received and forwarded by said server to a recipient via a wireless communication network.
21. (Cancelled)
22. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19 wherein servers are programmed to exchange information concerning SMS messages and user accounts via the Internet.
23. (Currently amended) A method for receiving an SMS message from a sender in a first wireless communication network and forwarding said SMS message to a recipient in a second wireless communication network without traversing a Short Message Service Center comprising the steps of:
- (a) a first hardware device receiving an SMS message from said first wireless communication network, said SMS message including information identifying the SMS message user device from which said SMS message was sent and further including a predetermined user-supplied recipient identification code from which the intended recipient of said SMS message may be identified, said first hardware device being located in said first wireless communications network, said first hardware device having an IP address and being connected to the Internet, said first hardware device receiving said

SMS message from said first wireless communications network, converting said SMS message to internet protocol (IP) and forwarding said SMS message via the Internet:

(b) said SMS message being received by a server connected to the Internet, said server maintaining a database for recording and retrieving information relating to authorized users, said information comprising at least an authorized identification code cross-referenced to said user's SMS user device and including predetermined routing information to one or more wireless recipients comprising at least a recipient identification code and a wireless communications network for each of said one or more wireless recipients;

(c) said server accessing said to determine whether said SMS message is an authorized SMS message;

(d) and if said SMS message is authorized, said server further accessing said database to obtain predetermined routing information to deliver said SMS message to said SMS message recipient in said second wireless communications network, said predetermined routing information including at least an IP address of said second hardware device on said second wireless communication network;

(e) forwarding said SMS message to a second hardware device attached to the internet and located in said second wireless communication network; and

(f) said second device forwarding said SMS message to said recipient via said second wireless communication network.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising debiting a user's account after the message is successfully forwarded.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising notifying the sender of said SMS message after said message is successfully forwarded.
26. (Currently amended) A method for receiving an SMS message from a sender in a first wireless communication network and forwarding said SMS message to an SMS message recipient in a second wireless communication network without using a Short Message Service Center comprising the steps of:
- (a) receiving an SMS message on a hardware device located in said first wireless communication network, said hardware device being connected to the Internet and programmed to receive and forward SMS messages via wireless communications and the Internet;
 - (b) forwarding a said SMS message to a server via the Internet, said server being programmed to receive and forward SMS messages via the Internet;
 - (c) accessing information including a user-supplied recipient identification code stored on said server to determine whether said SMS message is an SMS message from an authorized user;
 - (d) analyzing said recipient identification code to determine said SMS message recipient;
 - (e) determining that said SMS message recipient is authorized to receive said SMS message via an email account; and
 - (f) forwarding said SMS message from said server to said recipient's email address.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising debiting a user's account after said message is successfully forwarded.
28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising notifying said sender after the message is successfully forwarded.
29. (Currently amended) A method for receiving an SMS message from a sender in a first wireless communication network and forwarding said SMS message to a recipient in a second wireless communication network without said SMS message passing through a Short Message Service Center comprising the steps of:
- (a) receiving an SMS message via email on a server that is programmed to receive and forward SMS messages via the Internet;
 - (b) determining if said message is an SMS message from an authorized user;
 - (c) accessing information stored on said server to determine said SMS message recipient, said information including at least a recipient identification code and said recipient's wireless communication network;
 - (d) forwarding said SMS message via the internet from said server to a hardware device located in said recipient's wireless communication network, said hardware device being connected to the Internet and programmed to receive and forward SMS messages via wireless communications and the Internet; and
 - (e) forwarding said SMS message to said desired recipient via a wireless communication network from said hardware device in said desired recipient's network.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, further comprising debiting a user's account after the message is successfully forwarded.
31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, further comprising notifying said sender after said message is successfully forwarded.
32. (Currently amended) A method for receiving an SMS message from a sender in a first wireless communication network and forwarding said SMS message to a recipient in a second wireless communication network without said SMS message passing through a Short Message Service Center comprising the steps of:
- (a) receiving an SMS message on a hardware device located in said first wireless network, said hardware device being connected to the Internet and programmed to receive and forward SMS messages via a wireless communications network and the Internet;
 - (b) forwarding said SMS message to a server via the Internet, said server being programmed to receive and forward SMS messages via the Internet;
 - (c) determining if said SMS message is an SMS message from an authorized user;
 - (d) accessing information stored on said server to determine the SMS message recipient, said stored information including at least a user-supplied recipient identification code;
 - (e) determining that said recipient is authorized to retrieve said SMS message from said server via an HTML based interface; and

- (f) storing said SMS message until said recipient retrieves it.
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- 33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, further comprising debiting a user's account after said message is successfully forwarded.
 - 34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, further comprising notifying said sender after said message is successfully forwarded.
 - 35. (Currently amended) A method for receiving an SMS message from a sender in one wireless communication network and forwarding said SMS message to a recipient in another wireless communication network without said SMS message passing through a Short Message Service Center comprising the steps of:
 - (a) receiving an SMS message, via an HTML based interface on a server ~~device~~ that is programmed to receive and forward SMS messages via the Internet;
 - (b) determining if said message is an SMS message from an authorized user;
 - (c) accessing user-supplied information maintained on said server including a recipient identification code to determine the SMS message recipient and said recipient's wireless communication network;
 - (d) forwarding said SMS message via the internet from said server to a hardware device located in said recipient's wireless communication network, said hardware device being connected to the Internet and programmed to receive and forward SMS messages via wireless communications networks and the Internet; and

- (e) forwarding said SMS message to said desired recipient via a wireless communication network from said hardware device in said desired recipient's network.
36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, further comprising debiting a user's account after said message is successfully forwarded.
37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, further comprising notifying the sender after said message is successfully forwarded.
38. (Currently amended) A system for sending and receiving SMS messages, said system comprising:

A first computer, said first computer being connected to the internet and having a machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program comprising a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for receiving SMS messages from the Internet and sending said SMS messages to an output port connected to said first computer, and for receiving SMS messages from an input port connected to said first computer and sending SMS messages to the Internet;

a second computer, said second computer being connected to the internet and having a machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program comprising a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for receiving SMS messages from the

Internet and sending said SMS messages to an output port connected to said second computer, and for receiving SMS messages from an input port connected to said second computer and sending SMS messages to the Internet;

at least one server that is connected to the Internet;

said server having a machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program comprising a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for maintaining a plurality of interrelated tables comprising a database, said database containing user-provided information cross-referencing SMS users and predetermined routing and identification information for routing SMS messages to selected, identified SMS message recipients,

said server receiving ~~said an~~ SMS message from said first computer, analyzing said SMS message and accessing said database to verify that said SMS message originated from an authorized user and to determine the intended recipient of said SMS message,

said server obtaining routing information from said database for directing said SMS message to said intended recipient, said routing information including determining the IP address of said second computer to which said SMS message will be forwarded, forwarding said SMS message to said second computer, and maintaining account information for debiting said user;

said second ~~hardware device~~ computer receiving said SMS message from said server and forwarding said SMS message to said output port connected to said second computer and sending a confirmation message to said server; and,

said server then debiting said user's account.

39. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 38, further comprising a keyboard being attached to said input port of said first computer.
40. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 38, further comprising a cellular telephone being connected to said input port of said first computer.
41. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 38, further comprising a visual display being connected to said output port of said second computer.
42. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 38, further comprising a cellular telephone being connected to said output port of said second computer.